Department of State

EXCISE

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 02876

E.O. 12065: GDS 03/07/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: (U) KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM DAE-CHUNG BREAK BREAD BUT SETTLE NO BASIC PROBLEMS

REF: SEOUL 2711

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: KIM DAE-CHUNG AND KIM YONG-SAM HAD A LENGTHY PRIVATE LUNCH MARCH 6. THEY ISSUED A STATEMENT AFTERWARD (THROUGH SEPARATE SPOKESMEN) WHICH CALLED FOR A NUMBER OF THINGS BOTH COULD AGREE UPON, INCLUDING A PLEDGE NOT TO ENGAGE IN AN "OVERHEATED COMPETITION" IN THE RACE FOR THE NDP NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT. KIM DAE-CHUNG SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO SET UP A "LIAISON BODY" TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND KIM YONG-SAM SAID HE'D THINK THAT ONE OVER. YUN PO-SUN AND VICE SPEAKER KO HUNG-MUN HAVE OFFERED TO "MEDIATE" THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO, BUT THERE IS REALLY NOTHING TO MEDIATE--BOTH MEN WANT THE SAME THING. MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT KIM YONG-SAM TO REFUSE TO ENTER INTO KIM DAE-CHUNG'S LIAISON ARRANGEMENT, AND THE LATTER MAN IS NOT EXPECTED TO JOIN THE NDP SOON. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING KIM DAE-CHUNG'S 1970 NOMINATION, IN WHICH HE INSISTED ON VYING
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FOR THE NOMINATION AT A FULL CONVENTION. THE SPLIT BETWEEN

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H Teeple DATE 5/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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THE TWO KIMS COULD WELL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE OF THEM SEES HE HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE NOMINATION OR THE ELECTION ITSELF. END SUMMARY.

3. NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM DAE-CHUNG MET FOR A TWO-HOUR LUNCH MARCH 6. ALTHOUGH REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ALLOWED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE SESSION, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE TIME WAS DEVOTED TO CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO KIMS ONLY. AFTER THE LUNCH, SEPARATE SPOKESMEN FOR THE TWO SAID THAT THEIR BOSSES HAD AGREED "TO REFRAIN FROM OVERHEATED COMPETITION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION;" TO THE ADOPTION OF A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION; TO A CALL FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL "POLITICAL PRISONERS," REGARDLESS OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM; AND TO THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW. THE TWO ALSO AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND KIM DAE-CHUNG PROPOSED A "LIAISON BODY" TO FURTHER SUCH CONTACT. KIM YONG-SAM SAID HE WOULD THINK IT OVER AND REPLY IN TWO OR THREE DAYS.

4. [redacted] EX-PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN AND VICE SPEAKER KO HUNG-MUN HAVE OFFERED TO "MEDIATE" BETWEEN THE TWO KIMS. [redacted] YUN SAID THAT IF A "COMPROMISE" CANNOT BE REACHED, THERE WOULD BE NO CHOICE BUT FOR THE TWO KIMS TO BOTH RUN.

5. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH YUN THAT THE TASK OF ARRANGING A COMPROMISE BETWEEN KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM DAE-CHUNG IS DIFFICULT. THERE IS REALLY NOTHING TO COMPROMISE, SINCE

BOTH WANT SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE DIVIDED--THE NDP PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. ALTHOUGH KIM YONG-SAM SAID THAT HE WOULD THINK ABOUT FORMING A LIAISON GROUP WITH KIM DAE-CHUNG, A REPORTER WHO HAD SPOKEN WITH THE NDP PRESIDENT THE MORNING AFTER HIS MEETING WITH KIM DAE-CHUNG SAID THAT KIM WAS CLEARLY NOT GOING TO ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENT THAT PUTS HIM ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH KIM DAE-CHUNG. LIKEWISE, THE FACT THAT KIM DAE-CHUNG USED HIS OWN SPOKESMAN AFTER THE MEETING WITH KIM YONG-SAM OS INTERPRETED BY THE PAPERS AS MEANING THAT KIM DAE-CHUNG HAS NO INTENTION OF JOINING

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THE NDP FOR THE PRESENT.

IN 1970 WHEN HE, KIM YONG-SAM AND YI CHOL-SUNG WERE VYING FOR THE NOMINATION, ONLY KIM DAE-CHUNG REFUSED TO ACCEPT AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY NDP PRESIDENT YU CHIN-SAN WOULD SELECT THE PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. WHEN YU PICKED KIM YONG-SAM, KIM DAE-CHUNG INSISTED THAT THE SELECTION GO TO THE CONVENTION. WHERE HE BEAT KIM YONG-SAM ON THE SECOND BALLOT.

WHILE AN ALLIANCE OF THE TWO KIMS IS POSSIBLE AT ~~ANY~~ TIME, ESPECIALLY AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DRAWS CLOSER, IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF IT CAME BEFORE ONE OF THE NDP KIMS SEES THAT THE OTHER IS A VERY CLEAR WINNER. GLEYSTEEN